

MEMORANDUM

To: City Planning Commission, Committee of the Whole
Prepared By: Jason Wittenberg, Planning Manager, (612) 673-2297
Date: September 24, 2020
Subject: Proposed Zoning Code Text Amendment: Exterior Security Devices

The City Council has introduced a proposed zoning code change that would repeal the existing ban on retractable exterior securing devices. In some communities, such devices are utilized to cover retail storefronts or other commercial establishments and protect them from damage or theft. Such devices have been banned on street-facing facades of commercial buildings in Minneapolis since 2004. Following recent civil unrest and its substantial impact on many of the city's businesses—businesses already impacted by a global pandemic—policymakers have chosen to reevaluate this ordinance.

The current ordinance reads as follows:

535.40(b) *Exterior security barriers.* No retractable metal security gates or grilles shall be placed on the exterior of any portion of an enclosed principal non-residential building façade facing a public street.

CPED would like to discuss the proposed ordinance revision with the City Planning Commission and determine whether the ordinance will only include a repeal of the current ban or whether certain minimum standards might be warranted.